

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 EB-07

COME-00 OIC-02 /092 W

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R 241544Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6137

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS, FR

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR AND WMO CONFERENCES

REF: (A) STATE 8673; (B) STATE 10509; (C) SAIGON 0702

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE SAID THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR MERILLON HAD REPORTED GVN DEMARCHE CONCERNING THE PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR AND WMO CONFERENCES (REF C). ACCORDING TO BOLLE, MERILLON HAD NOTED GVN REFERENCE TO LOW CONFERENCE "PROCEDURAL" VOTE ON APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE 32, BUT BOLLE WAS NOT PREPARED TO INDICATE FRENCH POSITION ON SUCH A VOTE. HE SAID THAT THE GOF "GENERAL ORIENTATION" IS TOWARD ABSTENTION CONCERNING THE PRG. HE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE GOF WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE GVN. BOLLE ADDED THAT DRV AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG HAD ASKED GOF THROUGH BOLLE TO VOTE FOR PRG, BUT GOF HAD REFUSED.

2. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE IN CONTACT WITH FRENCH ON
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THIS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY WITH THOSE ATTENDING LOW

CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH FRENCH ARE COMPLETELY AWARE OF
PROCEDURAL ASPECT WHICH COULD PERMIT THEM TO JUSTIFY
VOTING IN FAVOR OF NECESSITY OF TWO-THIRD'S VOTE FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF PRG PARTICIPATION, WE DOUBT THAT THEY
WILL DO SO. IN THE PAST FRENCH HAVE CONSIDERED ALL
PROCEDURAL VOTES TO BE "POLITICAL" (REQUIRING A CHOICE
BETWEEN US AND DRV POSITIONS) AND THEY HAVE ABSTAINED.
WE SEE NO INDICATION AS YET THAT FRENCH WILL CHANGE
THEIR "TRADITIONAL" POSITION, BUT MERILLON'S DEMARCHE
MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT.
RUSH

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NNN

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